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Lunesdale Rural District Council



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1957



Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1957 Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Wellcome Library

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Vice-Chairman:
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R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc.(Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:
A. WARBURTON.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lunesdale Rural District Council

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The estimated population at mid-year 1957 was 7,300, being 40 more than for the previous year. The figure at the 1951 census was 7,351. Despite a small annual excess of births over deaths, amounting to 188 between 1952 and 1957, migration from the district is tending to make the population level remain almost stationary.

There were 104 births in 1957, giving an adjusted birth-rate of 14.5 per 1,000 population, the comparable rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County being 16.1 and 16.3 respectively.

The total number of deaths assigned to the district was 94, equivalent to an adjusted death rate of 12.7 per 1,000 population. This may be compared with the national rate of 11.5 and the county rate of 14.0. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system again appeared as the most common cause of death and in this group coronary disease continues to be the chief culprit.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that again there were no deaths from maternal causes, and, during the year, only one infant death occurred.

The general health of the inhabitants remained satisfactory throughout the year with the exception of the autumn months when an epidemic of Asian influenza swept across the country. The incidence of measles was also much greater than in recent years. I would draw your attention to the facilities offered locally for immunisation against diphtheria, whooping-cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis, and for vaccination against smallpox and tuberculosis. Many parents still fail to make adequate use of these valuable preventive measures available, without charge, to their children.

A perusal of the section of environmental hygiene will reveal that a great deal of vital work is done day-by-day by the public health inspector in maintaining and improving living and working conditions in the community. Further progress has been made in the Council's programme of improvement and development of sewerage and sewage disposal systems and by the end of 1957 new treatment works were in operation at both Halton and Caton. Similar schemes for the villages of Wray and Whittington are still under consideration and by the end of the year a tender for the Hornby scheme had been accepted.

Little has been done to improve the poor standard of sanitary accommodation in many of our rural schools in recent years and I am glad to be able to report that at long last three schools, at Over Kellet, Nether Kellet and Quernmore, are now provided with hot water supplies, wash-hand basins and water closets.

Fifty new houses were completed during the year, of which 42 were built by private enterprise and further sites are being acquired by speculative builders for private housing development at Halton and Caton. It is too early to say what effect the Rent Act, 1957, has had on easing the burden on landlords in regard to maintenance and repair of rented houses in this district. Improvement schemes qualifying for substantial grants were completed in respect of a further 22 properties during 1957, and altogether since 1950 a total of 69 houses have been preserved and modernised in this way.

On the whole the year may be described as one of reasonable progress.

In conclusion I wish to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to the officers of the Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA



GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres) 76	,267
POPULATION (Census 1951) 7	,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/57) 7	,300
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931) 1	,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census) 2	,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1957) 2	,331
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1957)	3.17
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1957)	0.03
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1957)	0.09
RATEABLE VALUE (at 1st April, 1958) £91	,417
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (at 1st April, 1958)	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Lime Stone Quarrying.

Brick manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1957.

Live Births Legitimate Illegitimate	Male 46	Females 57 1	Total 103 1
	46	58	104
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population	Crude :		14.2 14.5
Still Births Legitimate Illegitimate	0 0	1 0 - 1	1 0 - 1
C4:11 D:44 D 44 1 000 4441 /1:	-	Promised	_
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births Deaths (All Causes) Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home	46	48	10 94
population	Crude : Adjuste		12.9 12.7
Deaths from Maternal Causes			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			Nil
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age Legitimate	$\frac{0}{0}$	1 0 - 1	1 0 - 1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live birt	hs		10
Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Ag Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	ge —	1	1 10
Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases	Death		e per
Cancer (all forms) Respiratory Tuberculosis	16		pop'n .19 .14

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1957.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory		1	1
Tuberculosis, other			
Syphilitic disease	1	_	1
Diphtheria			
Whooping Cough			
Meningococcal infections			
Acute poliomyelitis			
Measles			
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1		1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1		1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast			
Malignant neoplasm, uterus			
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	7	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	_	1	1
Diabetes			
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	11	16
Coronary disease, angina	8	6	14
Hypertension with heart disease	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	3
Other heart disease	9	8	17
Other circulatory disease	3		3
Influenza	1		1
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system			
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum			
		1	1
AT 1		1	
Hyperplasia of prostate	2		2
	4		4
1 0 1 10 11	1		1
	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	4
	2	2	+
Motor vehicle accidents		2	2
All other accidents Suicide	1	2 2	2 3
Suicide	1	4	3
Homicide and operations of war			
Total Deaths From All Causes	46	48	94

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957 AND THE PERIOD 1952-1956.

<u> </u>	natal	Rate per 1,000 live births	10	10	6	∞	6	~	8.8	
Infant Mortality	Neo-natal	No. of deaths registered								
Infant	tal	Rate per 1,000 live births	10	19	6	∞	6	15	12.0	000
	Total	No. of deaths registered		2	₩	₩		2		per 1,000 per 1,000
Maternal Mortality		Rate per 1,000 total births	Nii.	Nii.	Z.	Nil.	Zii.	7.46	5.	= 14.5 = 12.7
Mat		No. of deaths registered	Nil	Zii.	Zil.	Zii.	Zii.	₩		
Still births		Rate per 1,000 total births	10	19	0	16	17	7	13.6	comparability factor, comparability factor,
Still 1		No. regis- tered	+	7	₩	2	2	\leftarrow		rability rability
iths uses)		Rate per 1,000 pop'n	12.9*	13.9	11.5	10.8	10.3	8.6	11.3	* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) death-rate (comparability factor, 0.99)
Deaths (all causes)		No. regis- tered	94	101	83	77	75	71		th-rate rate
oirths		Rate per 1,000 pop'n	14.2*	2.41	14.9	17.5	15.7	18.3	16.2	live birth-death-rate
Live births		No. regis- tered	104	105	108	125	4	133		justed
		YEAR	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	AVERAGE 5 yrs 1952-1956	* Ad

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer: Miss F. M. Jay, B.A., 35A, China Street, Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

Clinics.

- 1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.
 - (a) The Village Institute, Hornby: First Thursday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
 - (b) The Institute, Caton: First and Third Wednesday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
 - (c) Market Street, Carnforth: Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.
 - (d) Congregational Church Hall, Halton; Second and Fourth Wednesday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.

2. Dental.

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth: Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster: Daily, by arrangement.

3. Immunisation and Vaccination.

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis can be provided free of charge at Child Welfare Centres within the district. Appointments arranged as required.
- (b) The same service can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

4. OPTHALMIC.

Market Street, Carnforth: Alternate Wednesday mornings.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster: By arrangement.

6. School Health and Minor Ailments.

Market Street, Carnforth: Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

7. Speech Therapy.

Ryelands House, Lancaster: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment.

Convalescence

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

Health Visiting Service

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

Home Help Service

Home Helps resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District as follows:—

Caton: "Milford," Brookhouse Road, Telephone Caton 192.

Hornby: 2, Robin Croft, Gressingham, Telephone Hornby 307.

Laboratory Service

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Pathology Department at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination. Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston.

Mental Health Service

Medical Officers and mental health workers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental defectives and for the supervision and training of those remaining in the community. An Occupation Centre for the training of mentally defective children is available in Lancaster. The duly authorised officers are concerned also in securing the admission to hospital of those in urgent need of treatment for mental illness, and in their care after discharge from hospital.

Nursing Homes

Caton Green Nursing Home, Caton. Telephone 134.

Welfare Services

The following welfare services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, accommodation is provided at Bay View, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress Hostel at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Caton.

(b) Temprary Accommodation

In case of urgent need, e.g., by reason of fire, flood or eviction, arrangements are made for the temporary accommodation of those rendered homeless.

(c) HANDICAPPED PERSONS

For persons who are blind or deaf or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped certain welfare provisions are made available either directly or through the agency of voluntary societies.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957.

			Age Period — Years										
Diseases	Total Cases	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	10						8	1	1	-			-
Whooping Cough	14	1	1	2		1	6	3					
Measles	131	4	13	7	15	18	64	7	1	2			
Acute Poliomyelitis: Non-paralytic Meningococcal Infec-													
tion		—	—										
Acute Pneumonia	1								1				
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3		—					1	1		1		
Non- respiratory	2							1				1	
Total Cases	161	5	14	9	15	19	78	13	4	2	1	1	

TUBERCULOSIS—1957.

		Notific					
	New (Cases.	Inward T	ransfer.	Deaths.		
Age Groups.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	
0-	_	_	_	_	_	_	
5	-		_	_	-	_	
10	1	1	_	_	_	_	
15	_	_	_	-	-	_	
20	1	_	_		_	_	
25	_	_	1	_			
35	-	-	2		1	_	
45	1	_	_	_	_	**************************************	
55	-	_	-	_	-	_	
65 and Over	_	1	_		-	-	
	3	2	3	_	1	_	

TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notifications of infectious diseases totalled 161 as against 88 in the previous year, this increase being due to a greater incidence of measles.

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA

Ten cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with six last year.

The last case of diphtheria within the District occurred in 1947. This disease has now become so rare that many younger parents are unable to appreciate the tragic results which might ensue in children who have not been immunised should virulent diphtheria re-appear in the community. Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at school clinics and child welfare services. It is imperative that the maximum number possible should be immunised in infancy, and it is desirable that older children should be maintained in a state of active immunity by means of re-inforcement injections. In the following tables the numbers of Lunesdale children immunised during the last five years are compared.

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the period.

		Age at final injection								
Year	0-1	1–2	2–3	3-4	4-5	Total under 5 years	5–9	10–14	Total 5–14 years	
1957 1956 1955 1954 1953	74	24 17 34 36 37	3 1 12 7 4	1 2 1 4 3	1 3 2 2	92 70 124 96 86	6 11 19 18 21		6 11 21 21 21 23	

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection *i.e.*, subsequent to complete course

	Age Group								
Year	0–4	5–9	10–14	Total under 15 years					
1957	13	73	69	155					
1956	8	54	51	113					
1955	13	83	28	124					
1954	13	91	35	139					
1953	12	105	29	146					

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

One hundred and thirty-one cases of measles and 14 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, as compared with 52 and 24 cases respectively for 1956. The greatest incidence of measles took place in the early part of the year. The efficacy of whooping cough vaccine is now well recognised and a combined diphtheria-whooping cough vaccine which confers a high degree of immunity against both diseases is now being increasingly used. More recently still a triple vaccine to give protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus simultaneously has come into use, its chief advantage being the reduced number of injections necessary for the individual child.

GASTRO-INTESTINAL INFECTIONS

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no cases of food poisoning or dysentery occurred during 1957.

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS

In 1957 there was one death from respiratory tuberculosis, and in 1956 one from other forms of tuberculosis. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last decade.

Over the same period, however, the decline in the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis has been less marked. As will be seen from the table on page 24, six new cases were notified during the year, although three of these were inward transfers from other areas. Two new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were also reported in 1957.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.



WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water for domestic use in the district can be said to be reasonably satisfactory, since over 80 per cent. of the houses in the area are connected to the Council's mains. Premises in the remote and high-lying parts of the parishes of Quernmore and Tatham, to which it is not possible to afford a public supply are almost all provided with piped supplies from private sources. Many of these premises are farms and where milk is produced, the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Milk Advisory Officers, obtain samples of water for bacteriological examination with a view to ascertaining the suitability or otherwise of the supply before licensing the premises for the production of milk, thus ensuring as high a purity of water as is possible in the particular circumstances.

The bulk of the water passing to householders in the area is obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct. Four main connections are made to the aqueduct which serve properties in and around the various villages as follows:—

- (1) **Regional Scheme**: Arkholme, Whittington, Aughton, Gressingham, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington, and a part of the parish of Tatham.
- (2) **Borwick:** The village of Borwick. This main then passes into the Lancaster Rural District to supply a large portion of the northern part of that Area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

A fifth connection to the Aqueduct is only used in times of emergency to provide a supply to properties in the parish of Caton.

The Council also has two other schemes in operation in the area under direct management and these are known locally as the Hornby Castle Scheme and the Caton Supply.

The Council purchased the Hornby Castle Scheme in 1938 from the owners of the Estate, when the estate was sold. This supply was originally installed by the owners of the Estate many years ago to supply their various properties. Intakes are situated on the bank of the River Roeburn and the water is treated by passing it through settling tanks and slow sand filters and is chlorinated before storage. On leaving the works, a carbon filter is installed for dechlorination purposes and after ten years' continuous use the filter is still found to be most effective.

The Caton Scheme was also a private venture some 70/80 years ago to give a mains supply to premises in Brookhouse and Caton. These works were purchased by the Council in 1905. Water for this scheme is obtained from two intakes on a stream known as Traitors' Gill and one on Tarn Brook and after passing through a rough gravel filter, the water is stored in an open reservoir of nearly 1,000,000 gallons capacity. A hypo-chlorinator is used on the main on leaving the reservoir for treatment purposes. Housing development in and around the village of Caton has led to a considerable increase in water consumption on this scheme over the past few years and there are occasions when the ancillary supply from Thirlmere Aqueduct has to be brought into more continuous use than was at first anticipated.

Under a private Act of Parliament, the Lancaster Corporation has power to provide a water supply to certain parishes in the district and advantage of these powers has been taken to connect a number of houses to mains in the parishes of Quernmore and Halton. Some of this water is taken before treatment but very few complaints regarding the quality of the water have been received for a number of years.

Comment has been made in previous reports on two private schemes serving properties in Farleton and Claughton. The extension of the Hornby Castle mains to feed premises in these two villages had been completed and virtually almost all the houses have now been connected to the new mains.

No major improvement works were undertaken during 1957 but mains extensions have been carried out where necessary to serve new properties particularly in Caton and Halton.

An estimate is given below of the supplies to properties in each parish in the district with an approximate figure of the population served at the end of the year.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:

	From Pu	blic Mains	Private	Supplies
Parish	No. of Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood	. 58	170	23	80
Borwick	. 42	118	6	20
Burrow-with-Burrow	. 45	126	8	23
Cantsfield	. 22	74	1	5
Caton-with-Littledale	. 462	1,398	49	152
Claughton	. 30	70	11	31
Gressingham	. 50	123	2 5	8
Halton-with-Aughton	. 380	1,201	5	18
Hornby-with-Farleton	. 152	440	7	19
Ireby	. 15	51	6	19
Nether Kellet	. 82	265	3	8
Over Kellet	. 126	393	19	72
Leck	. 50	154	10	30
Melling-with-Wrayton	. 65	210		
Quernmore	. 83	281	94	320
Roeburndale			21	80
Tatham	. 51	167	68	243
Tunstall	. 25	73	5	15
Wennington	. 44	140	1	4
Whittington	. 78	235	21	65
Wray-with-Botton	. 120	371	27	110
Total Whole District	. 1,980	6,060	387	1,322

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

Routine sampling and testing of all water supplies is a most effective measure for the protection of the general public and specimens of water from various sources are regularly obtained for a bacteriological report. The samples are delivered to the Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and set out below are the results of the analyses of samples submitted during 1957:—

(a) Raw Water.

Number of specimens submitted .	• •		• • •	• • •	 16
Number found to be satisfactory.			• • •		 6
Number found to be unsatisfactory	7	• • •	• • •	• • •	 10

(b) Treated Water.

Number of specimens submitted		 		19
Number found to be satisfactory	• • •	 	• • •	18
Number found to be unsatisfactory				

The relatively high percentage of unsatisfactory samples of raw water is due to the fact that most of these specimens were obtained from the supply serving Quernmore School. This is a private supply and on these continual adverse reports, representations were made to the County Education Committee and treatment of the water advocated, with the result that at the end of the year, a chlorination and de-chlorination plant was on order for dealing with this supply.

Owners of private supplies are notified of the results of these examinations and, where necessary, advice given as to possible sources of contamination and the action thought necessary to clear up any pollution. An increase in chlorine dosage and extensive mains flushing is carried out immediately on receipt of an unsatisfactory report on a public supply.

Chemical Examination

The County Analyst at Preston undertakes the chemical examination of the supplies, and the two samples submitted from public mains were again reported upon as satisfactory. Two specimens from private supplies were also favourably reported upon.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

One of the most urgent and important sanitary requirements in the area is the provision of new sewers and adequate treatment works for dealing with this type of domestic waste and this fact has been stressed for a number of years in previous reports.

It is pleasing to report that works of this nature are now in operation in parts of the district. New works have been provided to serve the villages of Nether Kellet, Over Kellet and Halton, and considerable progress has been made during the year in providing similar facilities for the villages of Caton and Brookhouse.

Tenders have also been accepted for a similar works to serve the village of Hornby and it is now proposed to proceed with schemes for the villages of Whittington and Wray. On completion of these two latter schemes, all the larger centres of population in the district will be provided with a modern system of sewers and disposal works but the smaller villages will remain to be dealt with. It is hoped that financial means will be available to complete this somewhat large undertaking and that the work will proceed in the near future.

Details of the drainage facilities in the various parishes have been set out in previous annual reports and it is not proposed to reiterate them as members of the Council are well aware of this information. The construction of small private septic tanks for individual houses in villages where no sewers are available, and on farms, continues. As in other areas, the problem of maintenance of these small individual units is one on which owners continue to have difficulty. Requests for assistance are frequent, but the Council have neither the staff nor financial resources to provide a service for this work and private builders have difficulty in obtaining labour when called in to clean out the tanks.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Set out below are details of the estimated number and type of sanitary accommodation at properties in the district at the end of the year:

No. of Pail Closets	55	No. of Ashbins	 2,683
No. of Privy Middens	446	No. of Closets attached	 490
No. of Houses on Water		No. of Fresh Water Closets	 2,074
Carriage System 1	,678		,

Conversions during 1957:

No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	88
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	25
No. of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins	42

The figures for alteration of the various types of old conveniences show a reasonable increase over previous years and this has been due to the provision of the new sewage schemes over the past two years. Where these schemes have been provided, owners of property have been very co-operative in carrying out the conversion of pails and privy middens to fresh water closets and it has not been necessary to take formal action on any occasion to have this work put in hand. It is only hoped that this favourable state of affairs will continue as other schemes come along.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse collection is carried out by the Council's staff in all parts of the district. Most properties are called upon at approximately 10/12 days intervals whilst outlying farms, where a collection has been requested, are visited at varying intervals of about a month.

The absence of any serious complaints throughout the year indicates that the ratepayers in the area are satisfied with the service and reflects credit on the workmen employed on this service. The amount of refuse collected continues to increase, principally in bulk

as more and more food containers find their way to the refuse bin and waste-paper deposited in the dustbins causes considerable trouble on the tip site particularly in windy weather. Much more use could be made of the bulk of this paper if only householders would put it on one side for salvage collection.

The Council employ six workmen on this service and three vehicles are used, whilst a seventh man is engaged to act as general foreman and Rodent Operator and he takes over on refuse collection during holidays and sickness periods.

During 1957, refuse was removed from 80,573 ashbins and 2,605 privy middens and pail closets were cleansed; vehicle mileage for the year being 23,365. The number of ashbins emptied and the vehicle mileage shows a further increase over previous years as is only to be expected when the construction of new houses and increased collection from outlying farms are taken into consideration. A decrease of over 900 in the number of privies and pails emptied is a welcome feature, particularly to the workmen and this is due, in no small measure, to the provision of new sewerage facilities in the district with the resultant conversion of this unsatisfactory type of sanitary convenience. These privies and pails are emptied during the ordinary course of collection and the workmen take all reasonable precautions to prevent complaints of spillage of this type of refuse.

Disposal of the refuse takes place on two sites, one known as Timpenny Quarry in the Parish of Over Kellet, and the other in the old Town's Quarry at Whittington, the bulk of the refuse being dealt with at Timpenny. This tip was leased some years ago from an adjoining farmer and the site was estimated to be capable, at that time, of dealing with the refuse of the district for about 15 years. Owing to the increase in the amount of refuse collected, it is doubtful if we have now more than 18 months to 2 years tipping area left and the difficulty in obtaining a suitable and convenient site for further tipping is a problem which will have to be considered in the near future.

The salvage of waste-paper, rags, metals, etc., has again been continued, and the workmen enjoy a bonus based on the sales of these materials. The receipts and weights of salvage are given below:—

			0		O		O			
			То	n cw	t. qr.	Lb.		f_{s}	s.	d.
Waste Paper	• • •		32	3	1	0		£ 209	1	2
Rags			2	16	2	16		~ —	2	
Woollens			0	4	3	25		29	19	7
Metals			0	7	2	27		40	17	4
Batteries	• • •	• • •	–		-			1	1	0
			45	.12	2	8	#	(342	11	11
			-							

HOUSING

New houses were in course of construction in various parts of the district at the end of the year, 50 houses being completed and occupied. Of these, 42 were built by private enterprise and 8 by Contractors for the Council. The Council had 20 houses in the course of construction at the end of 1957, the policy being at the moment to build only for the re-housing of families from properties in Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit Houses which are subject to Demolition Orders.

Speculative building, principally in the neighbourhood of Halton and Caton, is still providing the main source of supply and several new sites are being developed in this manner. The demand apparently at the moment is for small two or three bedroomed houses or bungalows at a reasonably economic price.

Private individuals wishing to have their own houses away from the speculative sites still find great difficulty in obtaining sites, as owners of suitable plots of land in or around the villages are reluctant to sell off even small portions for building purposes or are inclined to ask prohibitive prices.

Towards the end of the year it was established that there were 146 outstanding applications for Council houses and of these, 112 applicants expressed the desire for a house in either Caton or Halton.

From a glance at the statistics set out earlier in the report, it is interesting to note that at the Census in 1931, there were 1,633 inhabited houses in the Area. The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957 is given as 2,331, so that it is reasonable to state that at least one-third of the houses in the District have been built within the past 30 to 40 years and are of a good standard provided with modern amenities. Most of these houses are of brick construction with slate or tile roofs, the external walls being roughcast or cement rendered to be in keeping with the rural area.

Older houses were built with local or near local stone, roofs being of blue slate or grey stone slates and most of these old houses show some trace of dampness owing to the lack of damp-proof courses in the random rubble walls. Taken as a whole, however, the general standard of housing conditions throughout the district is good. Many of the owner/occupied properties of the older type are in the hands of people who are house-proud and desire, as far as finances will allow, to modernise their homes wherever possible. Without doubt, this fact has some bearing on the number of applications received for Improvement Grant from owner/occupiers.

The rents of many of these older types of houses vary and in many cases are very low. The present high cost of building labour and materials throws a great financial strain on owners of these houses but it has been found that very little difficulty is met with when owners are requested to carry out repairs.

There have been six applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957. Following inspections of the properties, reports were submitted to the Public Health Committee and two Certificates granted by the Council, one of which was served before the year end. No information is readily available as to the number of properties which have been affected by notices from property owners claiming increases in rent under the Act but there is no doubt that the majority of tenants are satisfied that the increases are both morally and legally justified.

At the May meeting of the Public Health Committee the question of the Slum Clearance programme was discussed at some length and a small Sub-Committee was elected to view the property with instructions to report to a following meeting. Representations regarding eleven houses in two areas and six individual unfit houses were considered in June and two Clearance Areas were defined, the individual unfit properties being dealt with by Demolition Order procedure.

No appeals were made against these Areas or Orders and in December, the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the two Clearance Orders without recourse to a local enquiry. It is now hoped to re-house the tenants from these properties within a very short period as the Council's building programme for this purpose is well under way.

Applications for financial assistance under the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Act are still being considered by the Council, the amount of grant being set out in the report for 1956, i.e., a maximum of 40 per cent. on £400 for existing houses with a further 25 per cent. on the next £400 where an additional unit of accommodation is being provided. Before an application is submitted to the Council, every effort is made to meet owners or architects and contractors at the property to go into the proposals. The whole procedure is outlined to ensure as little delay as possible when the application is being dealt with officially. There is no doubt that by dealing with applications in this manner, although in some cases a considerable amount of preliminary work is done, the time spent on the site is of great benefit to all concerned once the application is approved.

Each application is examined by a Sub-Committee and their decision reported to the Public Health Committee for confirmation. During the year under review, 26 applications were put forward and all but one of these were approved for maximum assistance and at the end of the year 22 schemes had been completed.

The amount of grant agreed on these 22 houses was £3,395, an average of approximately £150 per house and it will be appreciated that the total cost of the works involved owners in a considerable amount of capital to bring their houses to the modern standards laid down in the Housing Act for this purpose.

Three houses were demolished during the year, in one instance, the Council having to take the necessary action in default as the owner of the property was unable to be traced. One Demolition Order, concerning a house previously considered unfit for habitation was withdrawn during the year. This house changed ownership following the service of the Order and the new owner submitted details of an extensive repair and modernisation scheme which was approved by the Council. The alterations and improvements to this particular house involved the expenditure of nearly £1,500 to bring this property to a habitable condition.

Four families involving 14 persons were re-housed from Individual unfit Houses during the year, and demolition orders on these properties are now operative.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES

No. of Premises inspected during the year	182
No. of Visits made for the purpose	
No. of Houses found unfit for human habitation and not capable	
at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	3
No. of Premises found not in all respects reasonably fit	65
No. of Premises rendered fit by informal action	44
No. of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
No. of Houses demolished	3

SHOPS ACT

There are 46 premises in the district within the purview of the Act and these are regularly visited. Almost the whole of these shops are small semi-domestic businesses where the employees are members of the proprietor's family and no action has been necessary for infringements of the Shops Act or Public Health Act during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughter-houses in the district and both are situated in the village of Caton. One of these premises is used by a butcher who, during the past two years, has developed a wholesale trade and animals are slaughtered almost daily.

Set out below are details of the number of animals slaughtered and an effort has been made to inspect the whole of the carcases dressed, on the premises. This has necessitated the making of 365 visits during the year. Particulars are also given of the meat and organs found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption. The disposal of meat condemned at the slaughterhouses is carried out by an arrangement with the Hide and Bone Merchants who visit the slaughter-houses, other condemned foodstuffs being buried on the Council's refuse tip.

Number of Animals Slaughtered and Examined.

	Cattle exclu'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	241	121	4	1220	13
Number inspected	241	121	4	1220	13
All diseases except Tubercu-					
losis and Cysticerci:—					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	1	Nil	5	Nil
Carcases of which some part					
or organ was condemned	52	33	Nil	76	Nil
Percentage of the number					
inspected affected with					
disease other than Tuber-	20	20	D. T. 1		> T + 1
culosis and Cysticerci	20	28	Nil	6.1	Nil
Tuberculosis only:—		2	NT11	3 T-1	X T * 1
Whole carcases condemned	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part	7	10	NT:1	NT-1	NT'1
or organ was condemned	/	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number in-					
spected affected with Tuberculosis		10.7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticorcosis	1411	1111	1 111	1111	1411

The quality of the meat examined is very good as is reflected in the small proportion of the amount condemned and only very few casualty animals were brought to the premises during the year as local farmers usually send such animals to the Lancaster City abattoir for slaughter.

Particulars of Meat Condemned

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All diseases except Tuberculosis:—
    Livers:
                   Heifer
                                50
                                29
                   Cow...
                   Sheep
                                71
                   Cow...
                                 2
    Lungs:
                                         Total weight: 2,597 lbs.
                                 5
                   Sheep
                   Cow...
                                 1
    Forequarters:
                                 1
                   Sheep
                                 3
    Hindquarters: Cow...
                   Sheep
Tuberculosis Only:-
                   Heifer
    Carcases:
                   Cow...
                                 3
                   Heifer
    Heads:
                   Cow...
                                         Total weight: 4,234 lbs.
    Livers:
                   Heifer
                   Cow...
                   Heifer
    Lungs:
                   Cow...
    Forequarters: Heifer
```

Total weight condemned: 6,831 lbs.

(b) Other Foodstuffs

Regular routine visits are paid to other food-preparing premises and shops. As these are mostly small family businesses, the standard of cleanliness is high and foodstuffs are handled with greater care than in many larger premises.

Few difficulties have been met with in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Owners and occupiers of the premises concerned are only too willing to co-operate and carry out alterations where these are deemed to be necessary. The growing popularity of pre-packed and frozen foods is reflected in the amount of this type of food on sale in the area. Several shop-keepers in the District have, during the past year or two, installed deep-freeze refrigerators and from their comments on this type of apparatus, all are well pleased with the turnover of stock through the refrigerators even when the cost of these appears rather expensive. Traders should be encouraged to install these fittings and the general public will without doubt appreciate service of this nature.

MILK AND DAIRIES

A large quantity of the milk produced in the area is removed to dairies outside the district where it is either pasteurised before resale or used in the manufacture of cheese or condensed milk.

Pasteurised milk is retailed in some parts of the district but almost all untreated milk sold locally is obtained from Accredited or T.T. herds. The pasteurised milk is obtained from wholesalers in Lancaster and all dirty bottles are returned to these dairies for cleansing and sterilising.

Five schools in the district obtain milk from local farmers in the vicinity of the schools whose herds are tuberculin tested and samples of school milk are regularly obtained for analysis by members of the County Medical Officer of Health's staff.

Samples of milk sold by retail are obtained from time to time. These specimens are delivered to the Pathology Department of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and during the year, 19 specimens of raw milk and two samples of pasteurised milk were all reported upon as satisfactory.

SCHOOLS

None of the 15 schools in the area are of recent construction and the provision of modern amenities such as hot water supplies, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation is still being requested for a number of schools. Many of these premises are controlled by local management committees who have not the financial means to bring the schools up to modern standards nor in some cases does there appear to be the interest in providing better facilities. Difficulties also appear to arise between these local managers and the local Education Authority when such schemes are put up for approval and considerable delays have been apparent once the alterations have been approved before work is commenced.

Some progress has, however, to be recorded during the year. New sanitary conveniences were provided at both Nether and Over Kellet schools following the provision of new sewage schemes in the villages and at the Quernmore school a new building was added to provide sanitary facilities and cloakrooms long overdue. Other improvements are planned to several other schools but these have not yet reached the stage where work can begin.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, the Council set up a comprehensive inspection and treatment scheme early in 1956. One man is employed on this work and his duties combine work under the Act with those of foreman over the Refuse Collection Service.

This service includes the inspection of agricultural holdings, business premises and private dwellings although work has been concentrated upon farm premises to a greater extent. Contracts for the treatment of rodents are entered into wherever possible following inspection and at the end of the year there were in operation 37 contracts for farms and 13 contracts for business premises with an income of approximately £150 and £34 respectively. Private houses are given free treatment where and when required but it is hoped that when the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food cease their operations in this field, more contracts can be negotiated and, in time, the service could possibly become self-supporting. It is known, however, that at least one private operator is working in this district, and he has a number of contracts with farmers to treat their premises.

The various sewerage systems in the area are baited and poisoned where necessary twice yearly to comply with the recommendations of the Ministry and the Council's refuse tips are kept under strict observation and treatment carried out whenever necessary.

TYPE OF PROPERTY					
	Agri- cultural	Non-Agricultural			
	Cultural	Dwelling Houses	All Other		
No. of properties inspected	296	456	165		
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections No. of properties inspected which	440	532	322		
were found to be infested by:— Rats: major minor	4 46	Nil 25	Nil 42		
Mice: major	Nil	Nil	Nil		
minor	12	51	14		
No. of infested properties treated	60	76	56		
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) No. of "Block" control schemes	318	184	196		
carried out	Nil	8	4		

Sewer Treatment.

Total number of manholes baited	228
No. of manholes showing prebait take	141
No. of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	46
No. of manholes showing complete poison take	13
No. of manholes showing part poison take	

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

There are 52 premises affected by the above legislation on the register and 54 visits have been paid to these during the year. No infringements of the requirements of the Acts were found and the co-operation of the managements of the firms concerned is appreciated.







